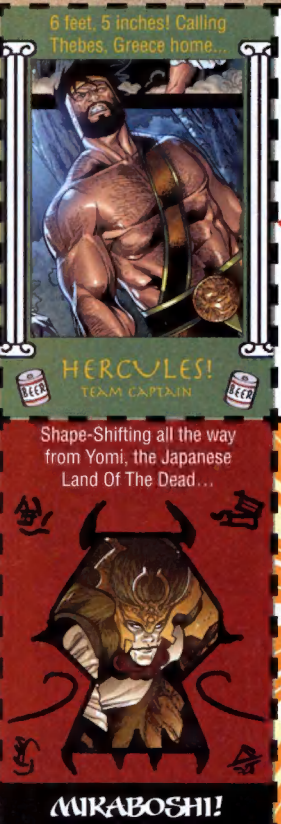
AND NOW!

YON STARTING LINEUP FOR *THY*

GOD SQUAD!

COLLECTETH ALL VI !



"IF YOU WISH TO COMPLETELY DESTROY A PEOPLE...
"...YOU MUST ALSO DESTROY THEIR DREAMS.
"AND THE SKRULLS DO NOT MERELY CONQUER OTHER RACES, THEY...
"...CONSUME THEM.
"IN EVERY CHAPEL TO KLY'BN THE ETERNAL ON EVERY SHIP OF THE LINE...
"...AND IN EVERY SHRINE TO SL'GURT OF THE INFINITE NAMES ON EVERY IMPERIAL SLAVEWORLD...
HE LOVES YOU.
"...THE SUPERIORITY OF THEIR FAITH IS DISPLAYED IN AN ENDLESS ROW OF VANQUISHED IDOLS.
"HADITH, OMEN-MAKER, PATH-LIGHTER, UPON WHOSE HATCHDAY THE QUEEDA OF THE QUOLAN SYSTEM FASTED...
"...THE SIMPLE DRUFF OF RYAS WAITED TO SPAWN ASEXUALLY UNTIL MULTIPLE-MOON ECLIPSES DEEMED AUSPICIOUS BY THE NAMELESS BLESSED-OF-LITTERS...
"...THE RAZOR-SHARP PROBOSCIS OF CEFFYAD THE RIGHTEOUS ONCE LANCED THE THORAXES OF UNBELIEVERS FOR THE IDOIDEA SWARM COLLECTIVE...
"THESE GODS STOOD FOR THE HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS, THE NOBLEST VALUES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE WORLDS...
HE LOVES YOU.

"...BUT NOW THEY ARE MERELY THE CULTURAL CARCASSES OF MASSACRED SENTIENTS...
"...FORGOTTEN BY ALL SAVE THOSE WHO ERADICATED THEIR WORSHIPPERS."
AND SHOULD WE FAIL IN OUR QUEST...
...OUR HEADS SHALL JOIN HADITH, BLESSED-OF-LITTERS AND CEFFYAD ON THE DUSTY SHELVES OF SKRULL TEMPLES.
DUDE, YOU'RE JUST A RAY OF SUNSHINE.

IT'S ALL TRUE, AMADEUS. I LEARNED THIS FROM THE CELESTIALS THEMSELVES. ACCORDING TO VERSE 1.23 X 10" OF JEMIAH THE ANALYZER'S FRACTAL SCRIPTURES--
CHILL, AGAK. I'M NOT DOUBTING YOUR SPACE GODS.
BUT THINK ABOUT THIS QUEST FOR ONE MINUTE.
ATHENA SENT US OUT HERE THROUGH THE DREAMTIME TO FIND AND KILL THE SKRULL DEITIES--
--BECAUSE OF WHAT THEIR FOLLOWERS ARE DOING?
THERE'S A METAPHYSICAL CONNECTION. IF THE SKRULL GODS FALL, THEIR FOLLOWERS WILL FALL.
YEAH, BUT WHERE'S THE MORAL CONNECTION? I MEAN, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT SOME STUPID MORTAL DID IN YOUR NAME?
UFF!
CLOP!
CHILL, AMADEUS.
SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE MORTALS.
HEH.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
AS WINTER DRAWS NEAR
THE BOY LEARNS THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN MEN AND GODS
ONE MORE HAIKU OUT OF YOU AND I'LL--
ATUM! HARD ON THE RUDDER!
KKRREEAAAK

AH. THE HEART OF THE DREAMTIME...
SO. WHICH WAY?
WE'RE AT THE FRINGES OF COLLECTIVE HUMAN UNCONSCIOUSNESS, ABOUT TO PASS INTO THE ABSTRACT REGION OF PURE SENTIENCE ITSELF.
IF WE PICK THE WRONG ROUTE FROM HERE TO THE SKRULL PANTHEON, WE COULD WANDER FOREVER THROUGH INFINITE ALIEN CONSCIOUSNESSES OF ALL THE RACES OF THE UNIVERSE FOR THE REST OF OUR ENDLESS LIVES.
OOOKAY. SO WHICH WAY?
NO IDEA.
SHEESH.

BUT ACCORDING TO THE COUNCIL ELITE--
GIVE A GOD A MORTAL'S JOB...
ATHENA SAID I'D HAVE TO DO THE HARDEST THING I'VE EVER DONE ON THIS JAUNT. MAYBE THIS IS IT.
WAIT, AMADEUS!
AAGH!
OW OW OW OW OW.
YOU MAY BE SMARTER THAN EVEN SOME IMMORTALS. BUT THE DREAMTIME CANNOT BE COMPREHENDED THROUGH REASON.
NOW YOU TELL ME.
AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, THE COUNCIL ELITE RECOMMENDED WE PULL OVER....
:WHINE!:
...AND ASK FOR DIRECTIONS.
THAT PLACE LOOKS... FAMILIAR.
OF COURSE. YOU'VE SEEN IT IN YOUR SLEEP.
IT'S THE LAIR OF THE LORD OF DREAMS.
YOU MEAN NIGHTMARE? THE DUDE WHO DROVE THE HULK INSANE AND NEARLY DESTROYED MANHATTAN?
HERC!
HUSH, AMADEUS.
BUT--
NIGHTMARE RULES THE BORDERLANDS BETWEEN MADNESS AND MYTH.
HE IS PRIVY TO KNOWLEDGE BEYOND EVEN MY UNDERSTANDING.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PARLEY WITH HIM.
WHAT HE SAID.

LET'S GO!
WHY SO CHEERFUL ALL OF A SUDDEN, OLYMPIAN?
THE BOY'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING--NIGHTMARE MAY JUST AS SOON HARROW US AS HELP US.
AH, WE'VE ALREADY ALLIED OURSELVES WITH THE JAPANESE GOD OF DARKNESS AND ATUM THE GOD-EATER.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S MUCH LEFT TO FEAR.
BESIDES--
--IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I ROWED INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH A BAND OF HEROES AND ROGUES.
WE COULD BE ON THE ARGO, HUNTING JASON'S GOLDEN FLEECE.
YOU, AJAX, YOU'RE LIKE ELOQUENT ORPHEUS, WHOSE TONGUE WAS ALWAYS READY WITH WIT OR WISDOM.
I'M GOING TO PRETEND THAT'S A COMPLIMENT.
HEH.
GRIM ATUM BROODS NEARLY AS FETCHINGLY AS THE GREAT SPARTAN BOXER POLLUX.
FIERCE SNOWBIRD COULD BE SISTERS WITH FERAL ATALANTA, SUCKLED BY A BEAR SOW.
AND MIKABOSHI, MURDERER OF MY FATHER, REMINDS ME OF POSEIDON'S CHANGELING SON PERICYMENUS...
...WHOM I HAD THE PLEASURE OF GUTTING AT THE BATTLE OF PYLOS.
HA.
BUT TELL ME, HERCULES...
...WHAT ABOUT YOUNG CHO?

...
NO IDEA.
A FINE PUP. WHAT'S HIS NAME?
KIRBY. SHORT FOR KERBEROS*.
AH. THE THREE HEADED GUARD DOG OF HADES.
AND THE NETWORK AUTHENTICATION PROTOCOL.
NERD!
*CONGRATULATIONS TO "M.G.H." OF MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY FOR NAMING OUR PUPPY!-- MAGNANIMOUS MARK
SO HE'S A PROTECTOR?
ALL THE COYOTES I KNOW ARE TRICKSTERS.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
EVERYTHING HERCULES WANTS TO DO--
NO. EVERYTHING HERCULES MUST DO...
...YOU HAVE TRIED TO STOP.
LET'S.
OKAY. YOU WANNA GO THERE?
YOU'RE A SHAPESHIFTER. LIKE MIKABOSHI--AND ATUM. SO THAT'S THREE PEOPLE ON THIS BOAT WHO ARE A LOT MORE SKRULLY THAN ME.
ON TOP OF WHICH, YOU'RE KIND OF BLONDE TO BE AN INUIT.
MY PRIMARY FORM IS KIN TO THAT WHICH MY DIVINE MOTHER APPEARED TO MY MORTAL FATHER SO HE MIGHT LIE WITH HER.
GROSS.
YOU ASKED.
WHATEVER. LOOK--
MIKABOSHI'S THE ONE WE GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON.

IMMORTALS.
WELCOME.
I WAS JUST DREAMING ABOUT YOU.
GREETINGS, LORD OF DREAMS. WE COME--
I ALREADY KNOW YOUR QUEST. I SNIFFED IT FROM THE BOY'S REVERIES WHILE HE SLEPT ON YOUR WAY HERE.
WHOOPS.
AND OF COURSE IN MY INFINITE LIBRARIES I HAVE A CHART TO THE REALM OF THE SKRULL GODS, AS DREAMERS FROM OTHER WORLDS DO BLUNDER INTO MY CLUTCHES FROM TIME TO TIME.
ALL I ASK IN RETURN...

...IS YOUR FEAR.
WE'RE NOT YOUR USUAL PREY, NIGHTMARE. WE'RE GODS.
YOU MAY CREEP US OUT. BUT YOU CAN'T SCARE US.
NO. OF COURSE NOT. PRINCE OF POWER. BUT... SURELY SOMETHING SCARES YOU.
THAT'S ALL I WANT TO SEE. JUST A HARMLESS LITTLE PEEK.
INDULGE A CONNOISSEUR'S CURIOSITY WOULD YOU?
IT DOES NOT APPEAR WE HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, HERCULES.
REALLY REALLY REALLY REALLY REALLY--
--REALLY BAD IDEA!
PSH.
VERY WELL, NIGHTMARE.
DO YOU HAVE COUCHES FOR US TO LIE DOWN ON, OR--
GLORP
GLOP
PLRP
SPRP
HERC!
AAAAAAAH.. YES...

OFF THE COAST OF MYSIA, 1289 B.C.
...THIS WHERE YOUR FEAR BEGINS, LION OF OLYMPUS.
WITH YOUR HUBRIS, CHALLENGED JASON TO A ROWING CONTEST ON THE ARGO...
...WHICH YOU LOST WHEN, IN YOUR CHILDISH OVER-EXUBERANCE, YOU SNAPPED YOUR OWN OAR.
ROARING WITH DRUNKEN LAUGHTER, THE ARGONAUTS SENT YOU OUT TO GATHER A REPLACEMENT...
HYLAS, ARMS-BEARER, FRESH WATER.
OF COURSE. HYLAS, SON OF THEIODAMAS, KING OF THE DRYOPIANS, WHOM YOU SLEW DUE TO SOME LONG-FORGOTTEN SLIGHT, IMAGINARY.
YOU AND THE BOY, ON ACCOUNT HIS GREAT BEAUTY, WHICH BEWITCHED ALL WHO LOOKED UPON HIM...
...HUMAN OTHERWISE.

AFTER YOUR DEATH AND APOTHEOSIS YOU LEARN WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HYLAS. THEN AND THOUGH
WAS AS THE EARTH HAD SIMPLY SWALLOWED HIM UP.
WHICH WAS NOT THAT FROM THE TRUTH.
HYLAS!!!
YOU FOR DAYS. THE OTHER ARGONAUTS COULD NOT PERSUADE YOU TO RETURN TO AND YOUR QUEST.
SO IT WENT ON WITHOUT YOU.
HYYYYLAAAAS!!!
AND YOU WOULD NEVER ON THE GOLDEN

AAAAH. IMPOTENCE. A MOST TASTY FEAR FOR A GOD.
EEEW. THIS IS YOUR DINNER?
NO. MY POWER AND NEVER HAVE I GATHERED SO MUCH AT ONCE. WITH THE DARKEST FEARS OF A LITTLE HUMAN GIRL, I COULD PARALYZE A SMALL TOWN...
...BUT WITH THE TITANIC TERRORS OF FIVE FIERCE GODS?
I MIGHT JUST TAKE OVER THE WHOLE WAKING WO--
OH, MAN...
HERC! WAKE UP! IT'S A TRICK--
H-HYLAS-- WHERE COULD YOU HAVE GONE?
TSK, TSK. MANNERS.
HKKKK!
GRLP

YOUR FAMILY WAS MURDERED...
YOUR HERO WAS BETRAYED...
YOUR PUP WAS CRIPPLED...
YOUR BEST FRIEND IS DOOMED...
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY RUN THE NUMBERS...
WHEN YOU TRACE BACK EVERY VARIABLE, EVERY LINK, EVERY TRAJECTORY...
YOU REALIZE IT'S ALL...
IT'S ALL...
...YOUR FAULT.
...MY FAULT.

HMM.
YOUR FEAR ISN'T BAD. BOY...FOR AN AMUSE-BOUCHE.
UHN NNH NNH
NO NO NO NO
AND FOR AN ANTIPASTO...
...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE SURVIVOR'S GUILT OF ALPHA FLIGHT'S ABSENT DEMIGODDESS.
BUT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO MY FOUR-STAR ENTREE.
WHAT MAKES AN ELDER GOD WET THE BED?

HAH!!
ALL LIVING FEARS ARMAGEDDON...
...WHAT WOULD YOU WHO ENGINEERS APOCALYPSE DREAD BUT ETERNITY?
THE END OF DAYS PERMANENTLY FORESTALLED. YOUR DREADFULLY DULL EXISTENCE IN THE HEART OF THE SUN GOING ON AND ON AND ON...
AND WHAT OF THE DARK SHADOW OF THE SHINTO FAITH?
WHAT SWEET DESSERT SHALL YOU SERVE ME?
LOVE YOUR TAILOR. BY THE WAY..
BOP!
PSSSSH
KE-PONK
THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.

AOW-
AAAH!
AOW
HYLAS!
HY--
EH?
NO! LIES!
AOW
MAGIC!
WAIT-- WE HAD A DEAL--

THUMBO
I %@$#ING HATE MAGIC!!!
SHOKKOKKKAAAAANNN
UNGRATEFUL RETCHES!
A POX ON ALL YOUR PANTHEONS!
NONE MAY STRIKE THE DREAM LORD IN HIS OWN KINGDOM!
LET THE SKRULLS RAPE YOUR WORLD!
I DWELL IN DREAMS ALREADY DREAMT!

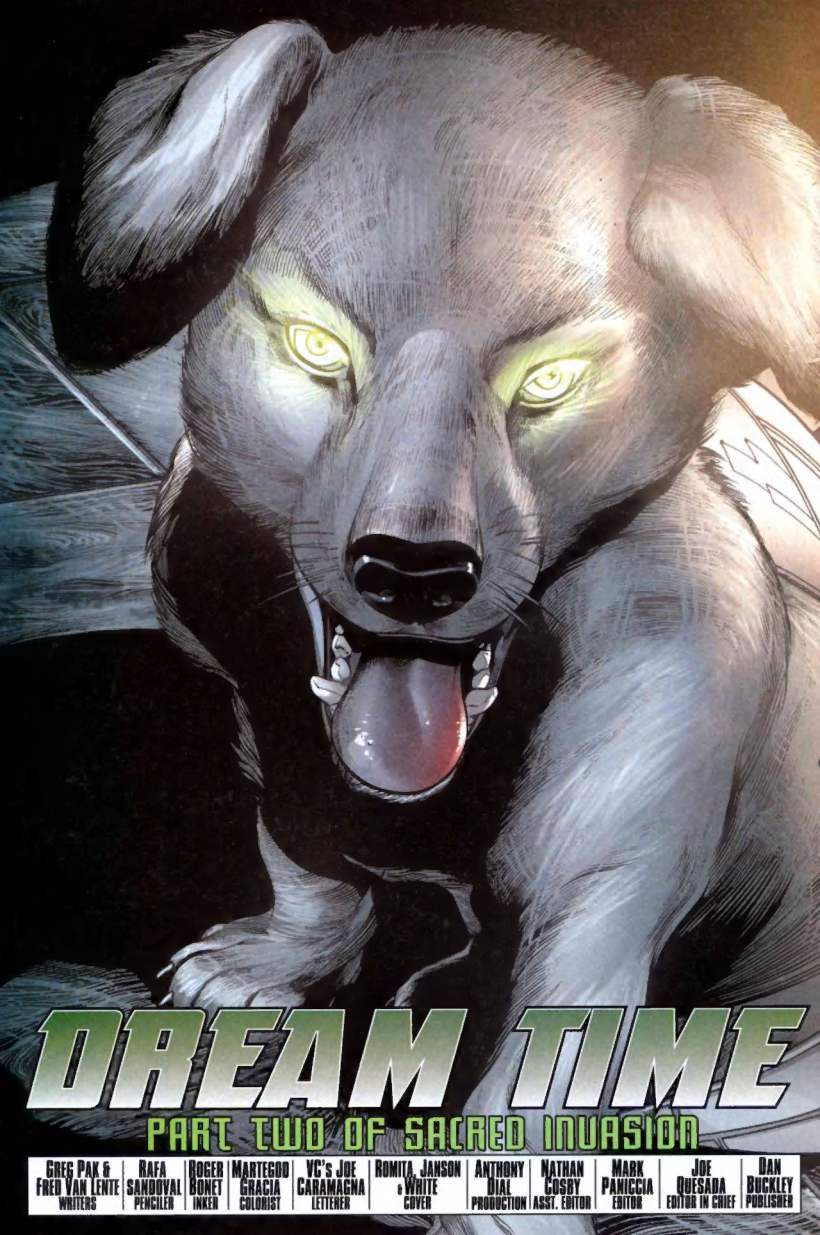
I SUMMON FORTH EVERY NIGHT TERROR THAT LURKS IN DARKNESS--
--EVERY PHOBIA TO EVER PLAGUE RATIONAL MIND--
THEE AND STAB AND TEAR THEE TO SHREDS!
WE...
...SHOULD GO.
YOU THINK?

HAHAHAHA!
FOOLISH GREEK! YOU HAVE LET A MISGUIDED ATTACHMENT TO A MORTAL WHELP DESTROY YOUR MISSION! AGAIN!
JUST LIKE ON THE ARGO!
EXCEPT THIS ISN'T SOME ENCHANTED SHEEPSKIN YOU'RE AFTER--
--THIS IS THE SALVATION OF EARTH HERSELF!
YOU HAVE DOOMED YOUR WORLD! SOON THE GOD-EATER SHALL FEAST!
CAN'T TALK.
FIGHTING

PANIKAKAKAKAKAKA K!!
WHILE THE KAMI OF JAPAN PROBABLY FOISTED AMATSU-MIKABOSHI ON US SIMPLY TO BE RID OF HIM--
(AND FOR THAT I CAN HARDLY BLAME THEM)
--HIS ABILITY TO CREATE SHADOW COPIES OF HIMSELF--
--WHILE THE REAL HIM GOES RUMMAGING ABOUT NIGHTMARE'S LAIR FOR MAPS OF THE DREAMTIME...
...COMES IN HANDY.
SEE, ATUM? THE PRINCE OF POWER IS NOT UNFAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF TRICKERY.
THOUGH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MY PAST EXPLOITS IS IMPRESSIVE I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE A FAN!
UNHAND ME!

LOST IN THE SHADOWS
HOW CAN THE TINY GRASS BLADE
HELP THE MIGHTY OAK?
THERE ONCE WAS A JAPANESE GOD OF MISCHIEF AND STRIFE FROM NANTUCKET...
ATUM! CAST OFF THE LINES! UNFURL THE SAILS!
MIKABOSHI! GIVE AJAK THAT CHART. SO HE CAN PLOT A COURSE TO THE SKRULLS!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE KIRBY OUT FOR A STEAK DINNER WHEN WE GET BACK, EH. FOR SAVING US FROM THAT MESS?
YEAH. SURE.
WHEN WE GET BACK
?
A-HUH... A-HUH-A-HUH-A-HUH...
SNOWBIRD...?
A-HUH-A-HUH-A-HUH-A-HUH-A-HUH!

THEY'RE DEAD. THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
EVERYONE I'VE EVER LOVED IS DEAD. AND...
I THOUGHT I COULD...
BUT... I DON'T KNOW--
THERE.
ZEUS KNOWS I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FINGERS TO COUNT ALL THE COMRADES-IN-ARMS I'VE LOST IN MY YEARS.
BUT I'VE FOUND, OVER THESE CENTURIES, THAT THE BEST THING--THE ONLY THING TO DO IS--
NARYA. WAIT.
ARE YOU SURE...
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?
I WANT...
NOT TO BE ALONE.
ANYMORE.



DREAM TIME

PART TWO OF SACRED INVASION

GREG PAK & FRED VAN LENTE	RAFA SANDOVAL	ROGER BONET	MARTEGOD GRACIA	VC's JOE CARAMAGNA	ROMITA, JANSON & WHITE	ANTHONY DIAL	NATHAN COSBY	MARK PANICCIA	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY
WRITERS	PENCILER	INKER	COLORIST	LETTERER	COVER	PRODUCTION	ASST. EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF	PUBLISHER

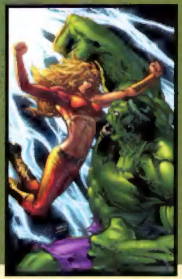
NEXT ISSUE!

KIRBY THE SPACE-PUP!

GET THESE!

HULK #4

SKAAR: SON OF HULK #1



HULK: RAGING THUNDER

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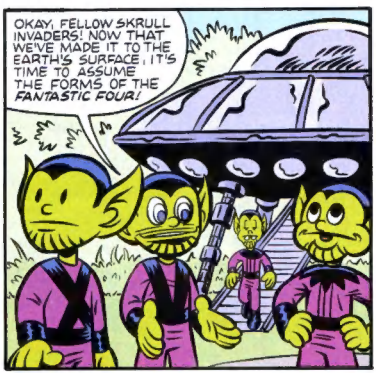
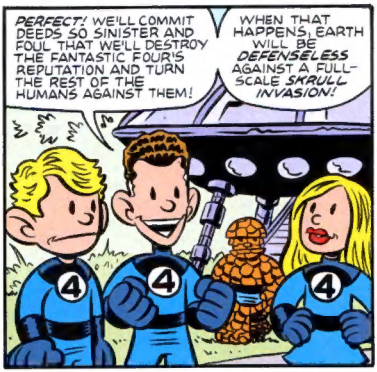
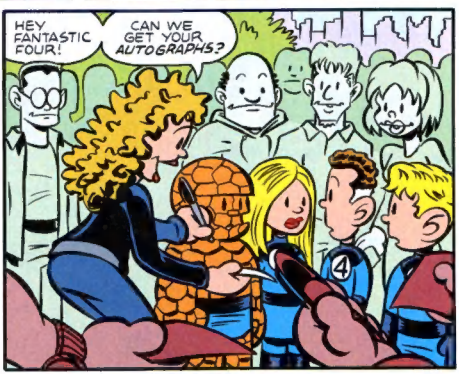
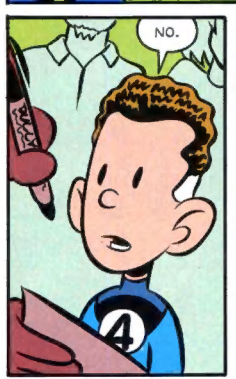
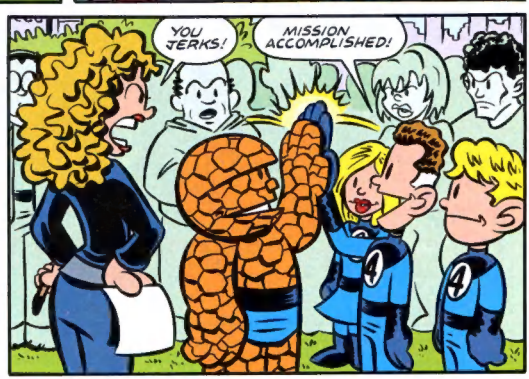

OKAY, FELLOW SKRULL INVADERS! NOW THAT WE'VE MADE IT TO THE EARTH'S SURFACE, IT'S TIME TO ASSUME THE FORMS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!


PERFECT! WE'LL COMMIT DEEDS SO SINISTER AND FOUL THAT WE'LL DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S REPUTATION AND TURN THE REST OF THE HUMANS AGAINST THEM!
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, EARTH WILL BE DEFENSELESS AGAINST A FULL-SCALE SKRULL INVASION!







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A GREEN GIANT SCAN

DCP

LIKE IT? BUY IT!